

MARVEL



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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH...
THE FOREIGNER!



PETER PARKER THOUGHT HE KNEW WHAT THE SCORE WAS.

HE THOUGHT THE BLACK CAT, HIS NEWLY-ACQUIRED ROOM-MATE, CONFIDANTE, AND LOVER, WAS ON HIS SIDE.

HE THOUGHT THE MYSTERIOUS FOREIGNER, A MASTER ASSASSIN WHO HAD JUST FRAMED HIM FOR MURDER, WAS AN ENEMY.

NOW HE'S JUST ARRIVED HOME TO HEAR THE CAT ON THE PHONE WITH THE FOREIGNER DISCUSSING HOW THEY SET PETER UP AND HE REALIZES THAT NOT ONLY DOESN'T HE KNOW THE SCORE, HE DOESN'T KNOW THE GAME.

HIS THOUGHTS FLY BACK TO WHEN HE FIRST MET FELICIA HARDY, THE BLACK CAT. LIFE WAS SIMPLE THEN. SHE WAS A THIEF; HE TRIED TO CATCH HER.

THEN THINGS TURNED AROUND. SHE WENT STRAIGHT AND THEY BEGAN A TUMULTUOUS RELATIONSHIP THAT EVENTUALLY SELT DESTRUCTED.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HOWEVER, FELICIA'S APARTMENT WAS FIRE-BOMBED BY A VILLAIN CALLED THE BLAZE. THIS TIME, THE CAT REQUESTED SPIDER-MAN'S AID, AND, ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FELICIA'S FRIEND, THE FOREIGNER, SPIDER-MAN AND FELICIA NAILED BLAZE.

SPIDER-MAN PUBLICLY THREATENED THE ARSONIST AND MURDERER. WHEN THE BLAZE WAS FOUND DEAD LATER IN HIS CELL, POLICE CAPTAIN CHRIS KEATING FINGERED SPIDER-MAN. NO ONE DOUBTED IT THAT HE DID IT.

BY THIS TIME, PETER AND FELICIA WERE BACK TOGETHER AND THE HOMELESS CAT HAD MOVED IN. AND WHEN PETER DISCOVERED THAT FELICIA'S "BUSINESSMAN FRIEND," THE FOREIGNER, WAS A DEADLY ASSASSIN, FELICIA EXPRESSED SHOCK AND DISMAY.

PETER SUSPECTED THAT FOREIGNER MURDERED BLAZE AND SET SPIDER-MAN UP. NOW, THOUGH, HE KNOWS HE WAS HALF-RIGHT. IT WAS A SET-UP. ALL RIGHT, BUT FELICIA WAS IN ON IT.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

HE RESOLVES THEN AND THERE TO PLAY ALONG,
NOT LET HER REALIZE HE OVERHEARD, THINK
AND PLAN, JUST AS THE CAT AND THE
FOREIGNER, BE UNEMOTIONAL, BE
CUNNING.

IT'S A LAUDIBLE AMBITION.

IT LASTS THREE SECONDS.

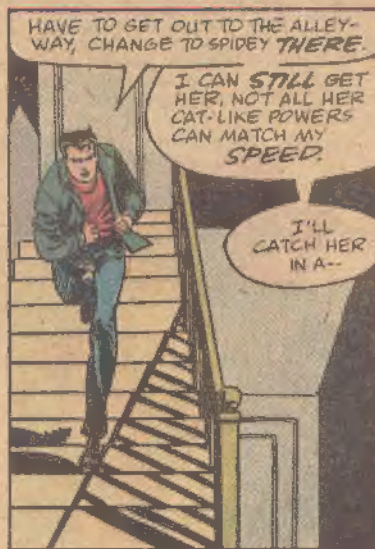
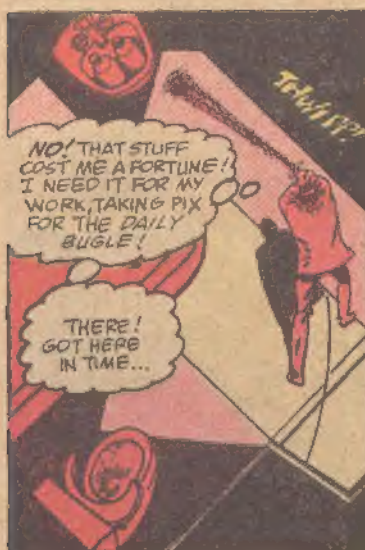
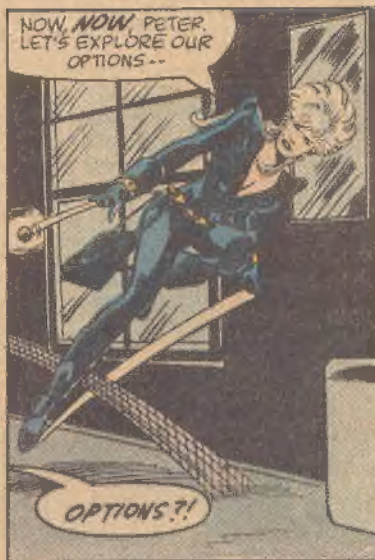
FELICIA!

WHOOOPS, GOTTA
GO, HONEY, COMPANY'S
HERE.

RUNK!

FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

PETER DAVID / ALAN KUPPERBERG / RICK PARKER / JULIANNA FERRITER / JIM SALICRUP / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / ARTIST / LETTERER / COLORIST / EDITOR / EDITOR IN CHIEF





I MEAN-- AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE HOSPITAL?

LET MYSELF OUT, PETE, WE HAVE TO GO HELP BETTY. SHE NEEDS US NOW THAT HER HUSBAND IS DEAD!

WOMEN... THEY CAN'T HANDLE... PRESSURE, PETE. NOT AS TOUGH AS US... GUYS...



UNNNNH!

I CAN'T LEAVE MY BEST FRIEND HERE IN THIS CONDITION SO I CAN CHASE AFTER THE CAT!

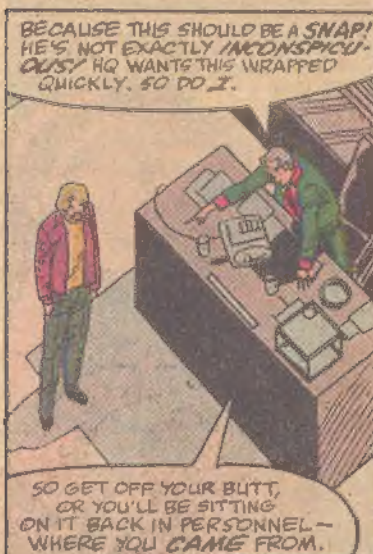
WHY ME?



DOWNTOWN, IN POLICE CAPTAIN KEATING'S OFFICE...

"WHY ME?" "THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. ISN'T IT, TORK? WHY, OF ALL COPS, DID YOU GET STUCK WITH THE JOB OF BRINGING IN SPIDER-MAN, RIGHT...?"

YEAH, CAPTAIN.



BECAUSE THIS SHOULD BE A SNAP! HE'S NOT EXACTLY INCONSPICUOUS! HQ WANTS THIS WRAPPED QUICKLY. SO DO I.

SO GET OFF YOUR BUTT, OR YOU'LL BE SITTING ON IT BACK IN PERSONNEL-- WHERE YOU CAME FROM.



I HATE WHEN HE'S RIGHT. I SHOULD BE BUSTING HUMP ON THIS SPIDER-MAN MURDER THING. BUT... SOMETHING STILL DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.



I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT WHEN STAN CARTER CAME AROUND HERE EARLIER, HE MAY HAVE HAD SOME VALID POINTS.



"AT FIRST, I COULDN'T BELIEVE HE HAD THE NERVE TO SAY--"

IF YOU G-GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT, SPIDER-MAN'S C-CLAIMED B-BEHAVIOR MAKES NO SENSE.



WHY, IF HE B-BROKE IN TO G-G-GET THE B-BLAZE, WOULD HE PUSH THE B-BARS OF THE WINDOW INWARD? EITHER HE'D B-BEND THEM SLIGHTLY TO SNEAK IN, OR ELSE PULL THEM OUTWARD. YET, THE WINDOW AND B-BARS WERE FOUND ON THE INSIDE.



AND WHY ATTACK WHILE K-KEATING WAS THERE AT ALL? WHY NOT WAIT TILL THERE WERE NO WITNESSES?

BECAUSE KEATING HAD THE KEY TO BLAZE'S CELL.

D-DON'T BE A FOOL! THIS MAN SUPPOSEDLY JUST PULLED OFF A WINDOW-G-GRATING. YOU THINK HE NEEDS A K-K-KEY?



AND WHY D-DIDN'T B-BLAZE SOUND THE ALARM WHEN HE SAW WHAT WAS G-GOING DOWN?

LOOK, CARTER... THIS IS POINTLESS. CHRIS KEATING, A 15-YEAR VETERAN WITH TWO MEDALS OF COMMENDATION, SWORE THAT SPIDER-MAN WAS THE PERR WE HAVE TO CHECK HIM OUT.



I'D SAY YOUR T-TIME WOULD B-BE B-BETTER SP-SPENT...



...IF YOU CH-CHECKED OUT K-KEATING.

AT FIRST I DISMISSED WHAT HE SAID OUT OF HAND. BUT NOW--

WELL, JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE STUTTERS AND IS A HOMICIDAL MANIAC VISITING FROM THE LOONEY BIN DOESN'T MEAN HE'S NO LONGER A COMPETENT POLICE DETECTIVE.



HI, MCNALLEY? IT'S TONY, YOUR OLD PAL FROM PERSONNEL. LOOK, GET ME CHRIS KEATING'S FILE.

MEANWHILE...

FLASH, THIS IS NUTS. WE HAVE TO GET YOU BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU DIDN'T TALK TO HER, PETE. IT'S CREEPY. SHE THINKS HER HUSBAND NED, IS STILL ALIVE.



LOOK FLASH... I AGREED TO COME ALONG TO TALK TO BETTY, BUT AFTER THIS, YOU'VE GOT TO GO BACK IN THE HOSPITAL UNTIL YOU'RE FULLY RECOVERED FROM THAT FIGHT WITH THE HOBGOBLIN.

ALL RIGHT, PETE!



WHY, PETER! FLASH! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE. COME ON IN.

THANKS, BETT.

SHE LOOKS OKAY TO ME, FLASH.

NED'LL BE HOME JUST ABOUT ANY TIME NOW.



OKAY, FLASH, YOU WIN.. BUT WE'RE NOT DOCTORS. LET'S TAKE THIS REAL SLOW.

HEY, TRUST ME. I'LL BE SUBTLE.



BETTY, LOOK. YOU SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING. NED'S DEAD AND YOU'RE ACTING REAL WEIRD.







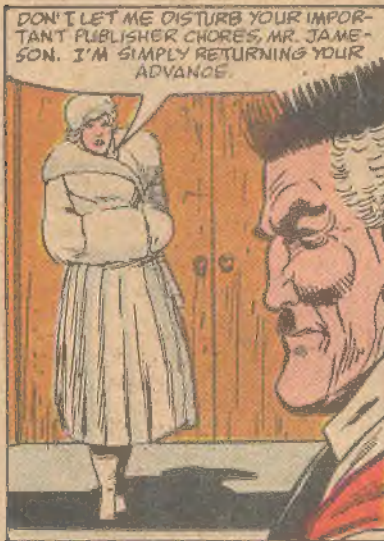


WHY HAVEN'T I
HEARD FROM THAT
BLASTED SILVER
SABLE? DOESN'T
SHE REALIZE
TIME IS
MONEY?

YOU'D THINK THE HALF-
MILLION DOWN PAYMENT I
SAVE HER WOULD BE AN IN-
CENTIVE IN TRACKING DOWN
SPIDER-MAN. THAT ROTTEN
WALL-CRAWLER HAS TO BE
NAILED FOR GOOD.



WOMEN! BAH.
CAN'T LIVE WITH
'EM, CAN'T LIVE
WITH 'EM!



DON'T LET ME DISTURB YOUR IM-
PORTANT PUBLISHER CHORES, MR. JAME-
SON. I'M SIMPLY RETURNING YOUR
ADVANCE.



I SEE. DO I GET TO
KNOW WHY, OR IS IT A
STATE SECRET?



CERTAINLY, I HAVE SIMPLY
HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.
OH, I DON'T MIND USING THE RE-
SOURCES OF SABLE INTERNATIONAL
TO BRING SPIDER-MAN DOWN.



... BUT I'D SOONER DRINK
SCOTCH WITH CRUSHED
GLASS THAN ACT ON YOUR
BEHALF.



YOU SEE, MR.
JAMESON.
JONAH.
YOU'RE
NOT
WORTHY
TO
SPONSOR
SPIDER-
MAN'S
DOWN-
FALL.

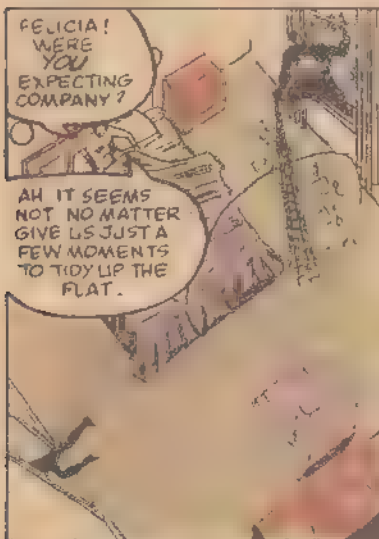
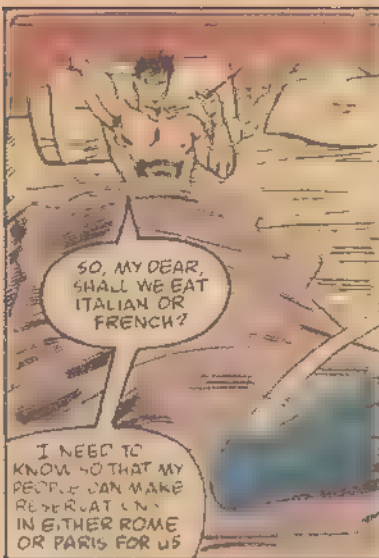
GOOD
DAY.

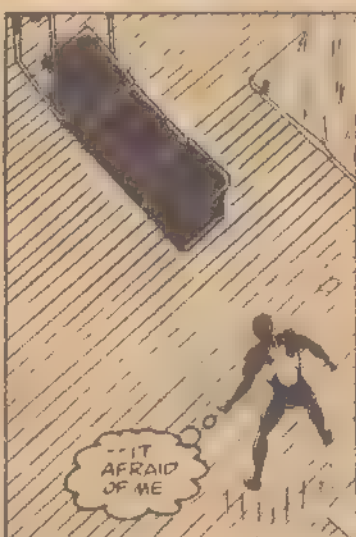
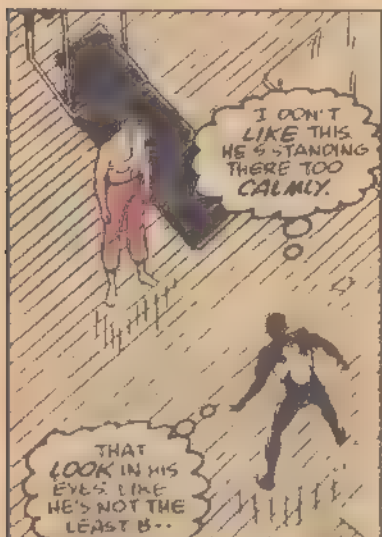
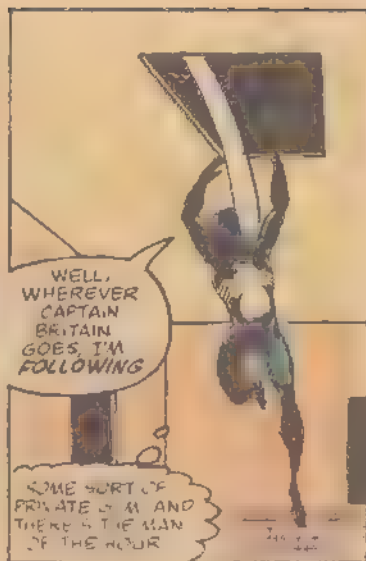


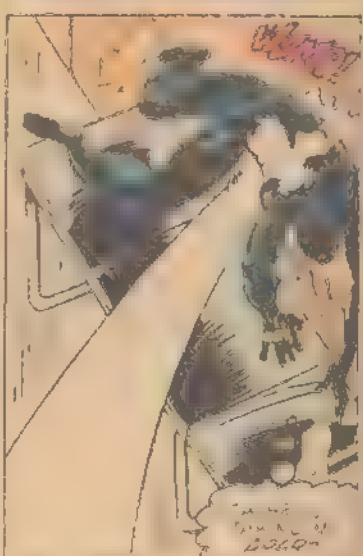
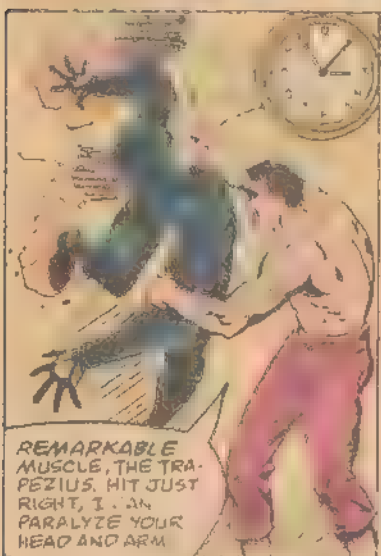
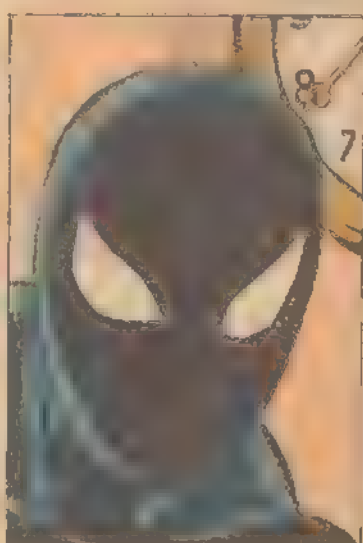
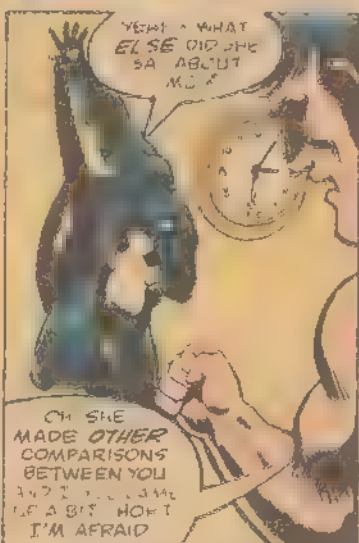
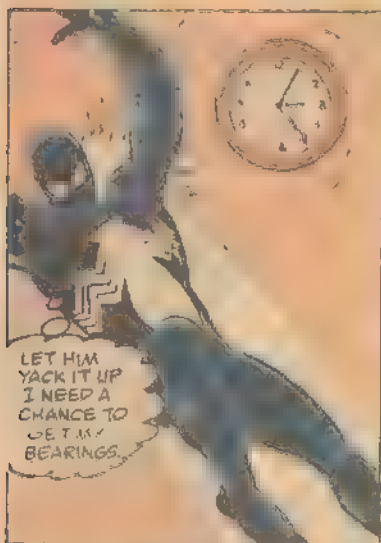
SABLE!
WAIT A
MINUTE!
THERE'S
ONLY
\$425,000
HERE.
WHERE'S
THE CASH
BLAMED
REST?

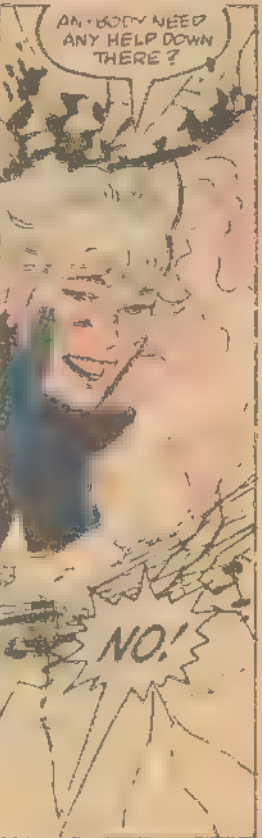
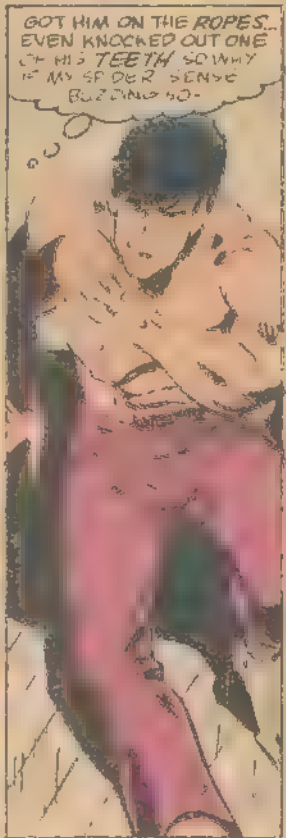
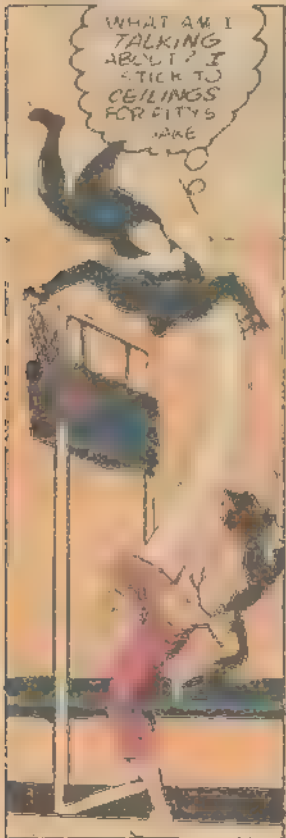
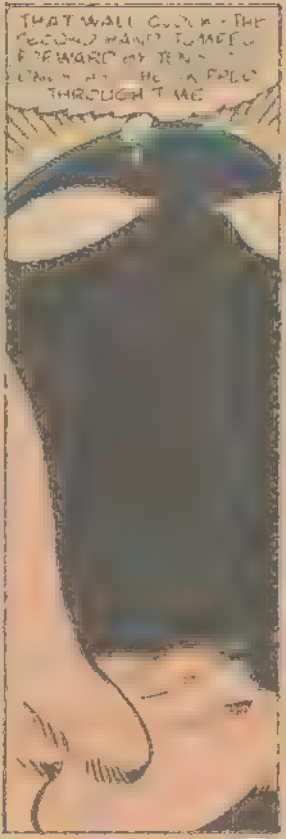
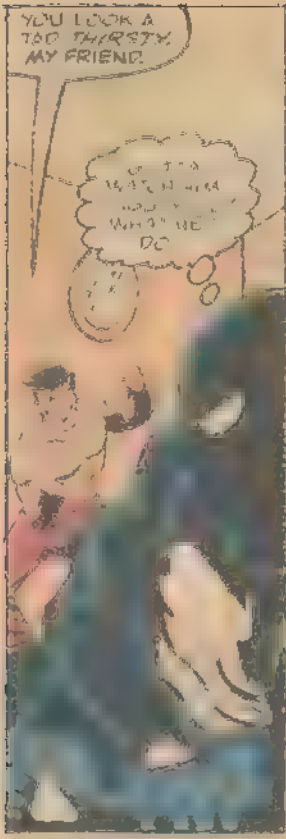


EXPENSE.

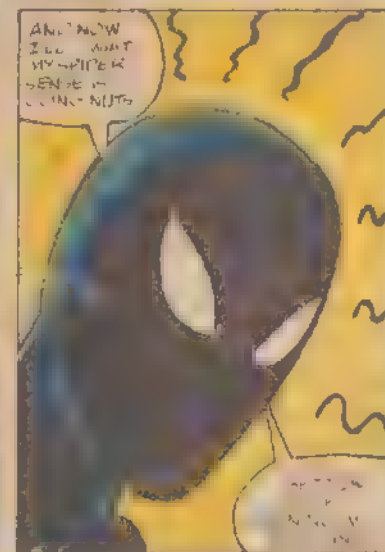
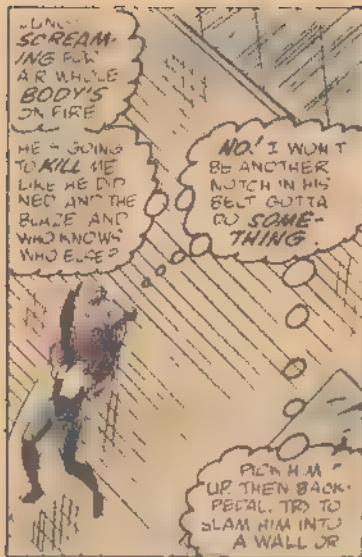
















HEY, TORK!
SPEAKING AS ONE
OF THE TAXPAYER-
WHO FOOTS THE
BILL F.R YOUR
SALARY. I'M
NOT WILD
ABOUT TH'S
TREATMENT

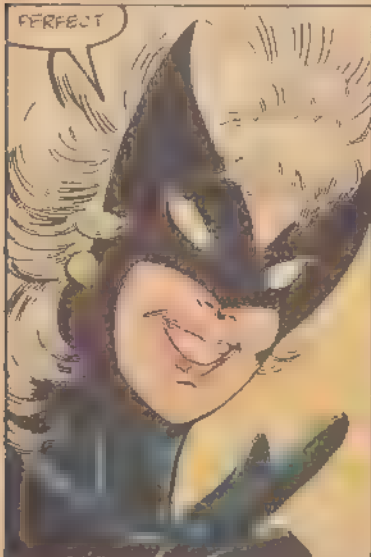
YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT TO
REMAIN SILENT.
IF YOU TALK,
I SUCK IT
CO USE IT



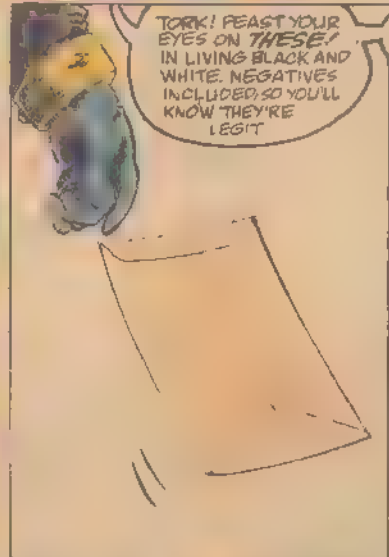
OH SPIDER-
MAN. WOULD
YOU LIKE MY
HELP NOW?

ARE YOU
NUTS? FIRST
YOU SAID YOU
LOVE ME THEN
YOU FLAME ME
AND LET ME
UP.

YOU'RE THE
LAST PERSON ON
EARTH I'D WANT
TO BE WEETED
TO



PERFECT



TORK! FEAST YOUR
EYES ON THESE!
IN LIVING BLACK AND
WHITE. NEGATIVES
INCLUDED, SO YOU'LL
KNOW THEY'RE
LEGIT



IT'S OKAY. IT WON'T
EXPLODE. WOULD I
LIE?



HOLY..

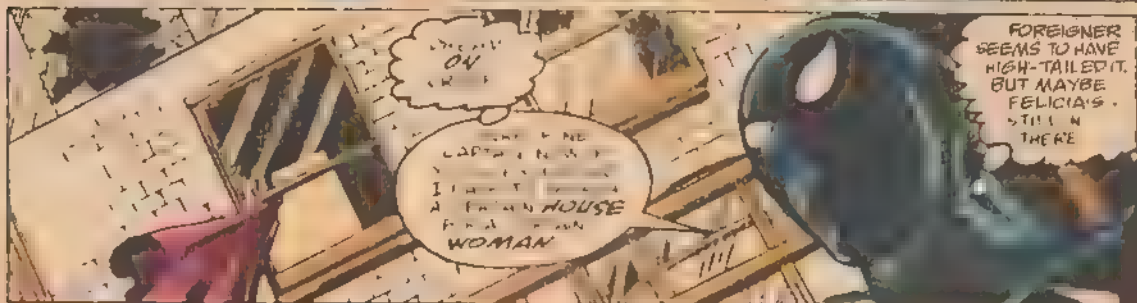
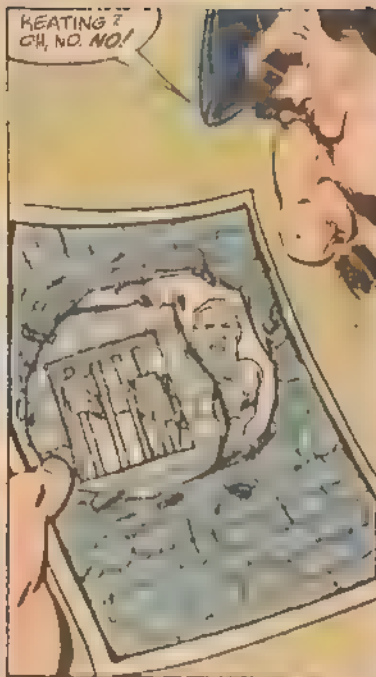
BACK AWAY FROM
HIM, MEN PUT AWAY
YOUR WEAPONS

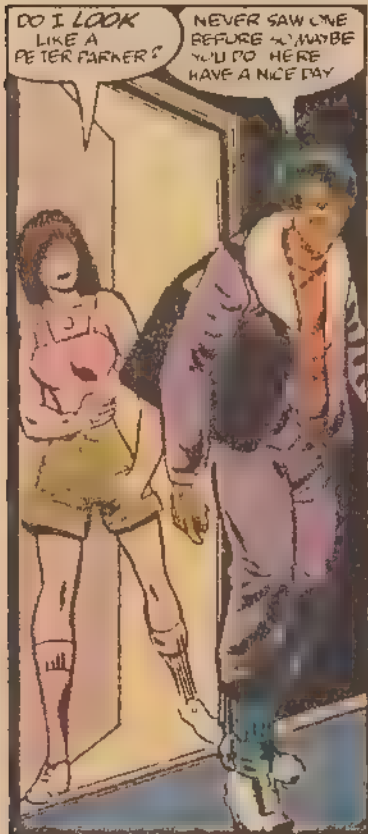
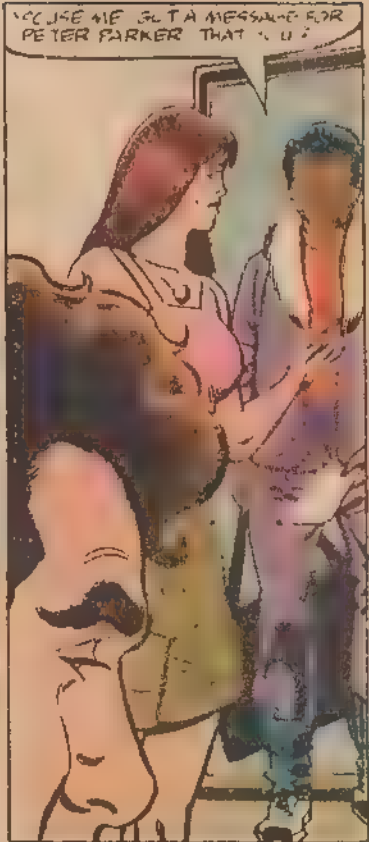
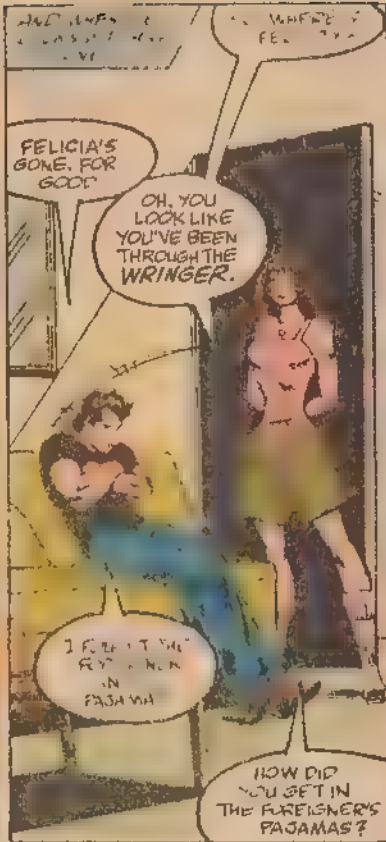
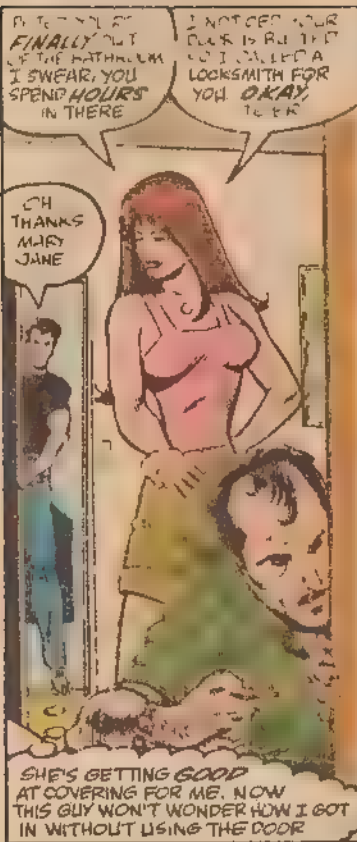


EXCELLENT.
TORK! YOU GOT
THAT MURDER-
ING --

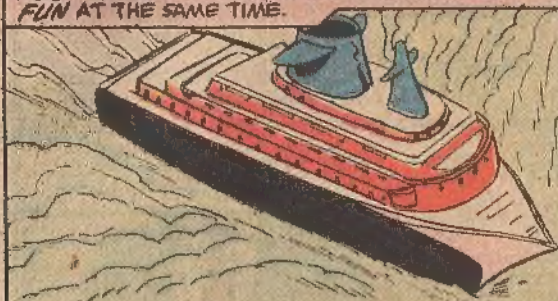


I'M
LETTING
HIM GO
CAPTAIN





"THEN THE FOREIGNER HAPPENED ALONG, WITH A PLAN TO FRAME YOU FOR MURDER AND EVENTUALLY LEAVE YOU WITH NOWHERE TO TURN BUT **HIS** ORGANIZATION FOR PROTECTION. I SAW THE **PERFECT** CHANCE TO ACHIEVE MY ENDS AND HAVE **FUN** AT THE SAME TIME.

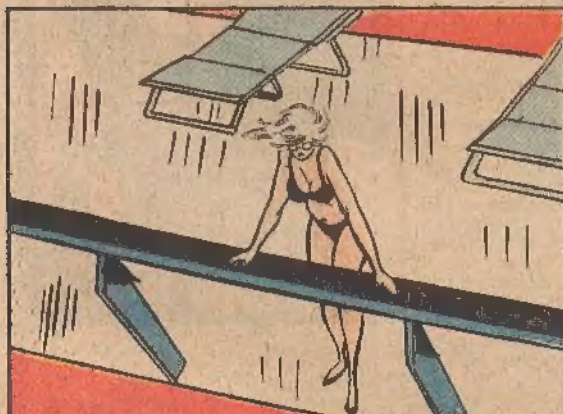


"WHEN KEATING, WHO I SUPPOSE IS AN AGENT OF FOREIGNER'S, MURDERED BLAZE, HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW **PHOTOGRAPHING** IT--PHOTOS THAT BY NOW I WILL HAVE TURNED OVER TO THE COPS.

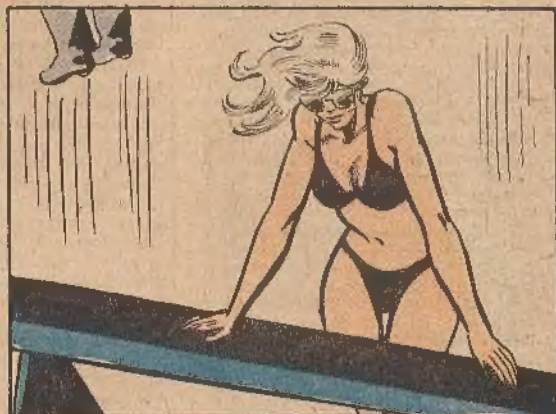
"I LET YOU LISTEN IN TO MY PHONE CALL WITH THE FOREIGNER, JUST AS I KNEW MY 'SLIP' ABOUT KEATING WOULD LEAD YOU TO POLICE HQ SO I COULD CALL YOU AND LET YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS, YOU HATE ME NOW, JUST AS I HATED YOU BEFORE, AND YOU WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT HELP FROM ME, JUST AS I WAS FROM YOU. SO NOW WE'RE EVEN.



"EXCEPT WE'RE **NOT**. BECAUSE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, WHILE MY PLAN CALLED FOR MY TRICKING YOU TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, I FELL BACK IN LOVE WITH YOU, SO MY WHOLE PLAN DOESN'T FEEL AS GOOD AS IT SHOULD. THAT'S THE **BREAKS**, I GUESS.

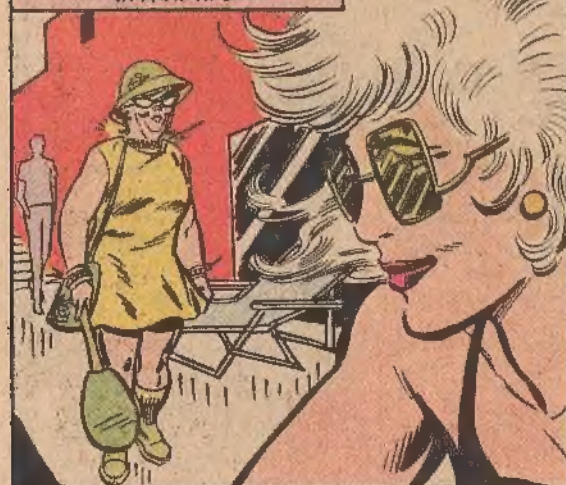


"I'M CERTAIN THAT THE FOREIGNER WILL WANT ME KILLED, SO I'M GOING ON A LITTLE GETAWAY VACATION FOR AWHILE, SOMEWHERE REMOTE WHERE I CAN ADMIRE THE SCENERY.



"WE'VE HAD FUN, PETE. AT LEAST I HAVE. ENCLOSED IS A PHOTO OF ME TO WARM YOUR NIGHTS. I GUESS ALL THOSE PHOTOS I TOOK OF YOU IN ACTION FOR THE BUGLE GAVE ME LOTS OF PRACTICE.

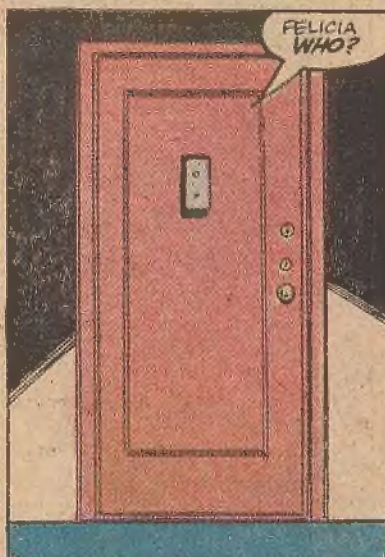
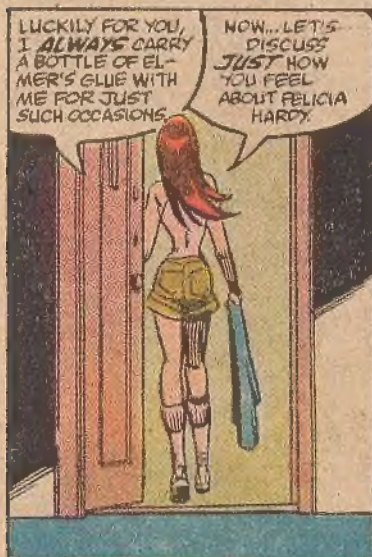
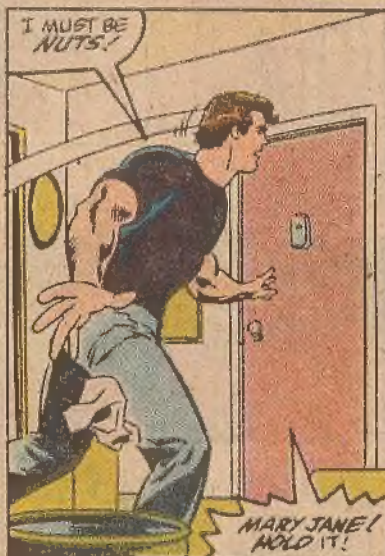
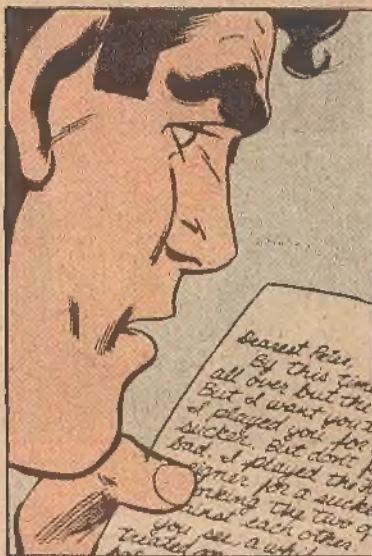
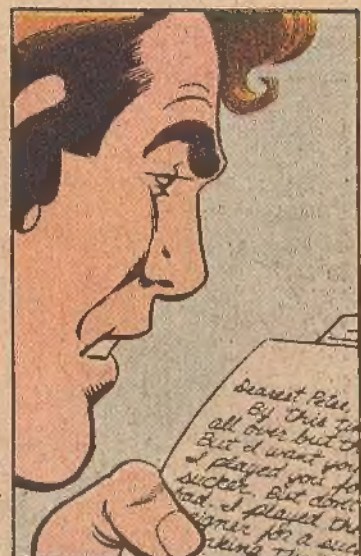
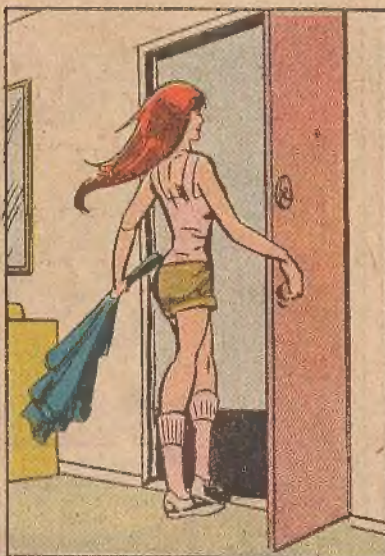
"AND IF THERE'S **ONE** THING I BELIEVE IN, IT'S KEEPING IN PRACTICE.



"BY THE WAY, DON'T SHOW THIS PICTURE TO YOUR RED-HEADED FRIEND, MYRA-JEANNE. UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU WANT TO DRIVE HER MAD WITH JEALOUSY, ALL MY LOVE, FELICIA."

CUTE PICTURE. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY CHILLY POSING FOR IT.





THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR WAS AS MUCH TO TEST FELICIA'S **LOYALTY** AS TO GET SPIDER-MAN. A SHAME SHE FAILED SO UTTERLY. I'LL HAVE TO **KILL** HER, I SUPPOSE... WHEN I GET AROUND TO IT.

WHAT I **MOST** REGRET IS LOSING KEATING.

HE WAS QUITE VALUABLE. WHEN I FIRST MET HIM SEVERAL YEARS AGO HE WAS **WELL PLACED** IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT HE HAD **NO** FAMILY. **NO ONE CLOSE** TO HIM. HE WAS PERFECT.

SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN SOME **TWO DOZEN** MEN IMPERSONATING HIM AT ONE TIME OR OTHER. IT WAS A SORT OF A TRAINING ASSIGNMENT FOR NEW RECRUITS INTO MY DISGUISE CORP.

CHRIS KEATING? WHAT WAS HE TO YOU?

SO NATURALLY, NO ONE NOTICED WHEN I KILLED HIM.

BLENDING IN WITH THE POLICE WHILE DOING WHATEVER NAUGHTY BITS THEY CONCOCTED ON THE SIDE.

OF COURSE I HANDLED **BLAZE'S** KILLING, MYSELF WOULDN'T TRUST THAT TO UNDERLINGS. AH, WELL...

REST IN PEACE, CHRIS KEATING.

BY THE **BY** SILVER... IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO PUT ASIDE OUR **DEATH FEUD** LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A RIDE TO THIS OTHER **HIDEAWAY** OF MINE.

WHAT CAN I SAY? I'VE GOT A WEAKNESS FOR DESPERATE MEN.

IN A MOMENT, SILVER.

MY DEAR EX-HUSBAND! ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T **TRUST** ME...?

TRUSTING WOMEN HAS BEEN MY OCCASIONAL DOWNFALL, MY **CHARMING** EX-WIFE STILL...

HERE, A TOAST TO THE DEAR, DEPARTED CHRIS KEATING.

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT, EH? **CHEERS.**

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Blast! That holographic image projector cost a fortune! Hope it's still deductible under the new tax laws!"

—Iron Man, IRON MAN #221

ITEM: After a few days shy of a decade (!) mellow Mary Jo Duffy has decided to turn in her editorial blue pencil and join the ranks of Marvel's frantic freelancers. Mary Jo, who's been the managing editor on our Epic line for the past three years, began her editorial stint up here at Marvel way back in January 1977. Before there even was an Epic line to hitch up with, she served as an assistant editor to then-staff editors Bob Hall and Al Milgrom. Soon after the late lamented Epic Magazine began, she became Archie Goodwin's associate editor, becoming an editor when the Epic comics line was launched in 1982. Now that she's left the 9 to 5 grind, you can see her scripting talents on display in the ongoing FALLEN ANGELS Limited Series, as well as the forthcoming PUNISHER graphic novel. (Gee, with Mary Jo gone, the only people who've been on staff longer than she are the redoubtable Ralph Macchio and jaunty Jim Shooter.)

ITEM: Congratulations to both wily Walt Simonson and busy Bill Sienkiewicz for winning a pair of prestigious foreign awards for their comics work. "Uncle" Walt went to Oviedo, Spain to pick up the Haxtur Award given by El III Salón del Comic Ciudad de Oviedo for his writing on THOR. Bill traveled to Lucca, Italy to receive the Yellow Kid Award and the Grand Guignol for his artistry on the ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN Epic book. Take your bows, guys—both of you are helping to advance the prestige of comic books the world over!

ITEM: Congratulations are also due vivacious Virginia and jazzy Johnny Romita on the birth of their very first grandchild. Born on December 31, 1986, captivating Krista Romita ushered in the New Year (not to mention a new generation of Floritas) at four pounds and seven ounces. Rumor has it that Victor and Nancy Romita, Krista's proud parents, have already started making plans to send her to art school. She can't start penciling too soon if she's going to follow in the grand artistic steps of granddaddy John Senior and uncle John Junior! (Virginia claims Krista was born ahead of schedule, but what would you expect our tantalizing Traffic Manager to say? After all, it's her job to keep our ever-illustrous, but never industrious, editorial staff on schedule so that our consummate comics come out on time every month like they should!)

ITEM: As most of you already know, Spider-Man is getting married this summer! Yes, that's right, the of web-slinger is finally going to tie the knot. To help celebrate this momentous occasion, we're going to throw a very special bachelor party for everyone's favorite wall-crawler at The Wonderful World of Comics Convention which will be held on May 2nd and 3rd, at the Oakland Hyatt Hotel in Oakland, California. The featured guests will include Smiling Stan Lee, jaunty Jim Shooter, Sensational Steve Englehart, and a host of other Marvel medmen. For more information on this convention, you can write to:

Bob Borden
c/o Fact, Fiction & Fantasy
2247 First Street
Livermore, CA 94550

Or, you can call Bob at 415-449-5233. Just tell him that Marvel sent you!

Pro File on: JIM SHOOTER

Editor in Chief of: The entire Marvel, Epic, and Star lines of comic books

Marvel freelance credits (past): STAR BRAND, SECRET WARS I and II, THE AVENGERS, DAREDEVIL, GHOST RIDER, DAZLER, and almost every other Marvel character at one time or another.

Marvel freelance credits (present): By popular demand, I'm not writing anything at the moment.

My place of birth is: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

My hobbies are: I like to run, lift weights and ride motorcycles. According to Playgirl Magazine, I'm one of the Fifty Most Eligible Bachelors in America, and I'm continually trying to prove it!

My pet peeves are: Narrowmindedness and shortsightedness.

The single work which I am most proud of is: The improved financial benefits and creators rights which I've managed to get for the people who work at Marvel.

My oddest habit is: I can't do any creative work at a desk or a table. I do most of my writing on a lap board with my feet propped up while I'm seated on the left end of a couch.

The biggest influences on my work include: Stan Lee, Mort Weisinger and Mark Twain.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To write a story that I am happy with.

The worst part of my job is: That I can't do it as well as I want.

When nobody's looking I like to: Practice juggling.



The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I don't really care what the world knows about me, or what the world thinks of me, as long as I do what's right.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #245—Guest-starring the Black Panther!
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #74
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORTUUM #9
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #28—With Wolverine!
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #1
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #8
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #48—Versus their most deadly adversary, Omega!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #332—Steve Rogers resigns as Cap!
- ☐ FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #5
- ☐ STRANGE TALES II #5—With two great featured Cloak & Dagger battle Rodent, and Dr. Strange meets the New Defenders!
- ☐ POWER PACK #31—Alex sets out to destroy a Crack house!
- ☐ AVENGERS #232
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #334
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #202
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #2—Return to Zorin Le, the Surfer's home planet!
- ☐ X-MEN #233
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #197—With Red Sonja!
- ☐ G.I. JOE #52
- ☐ MARVEL SAGA #21
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #305—Mr. Marvel joins the FF!

- ☐ IRON MAN #21
- ☐ THE NAM #9
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #229
- ☐ PUNISHER #2—Out to destroy the South American Crack connection!
- ☐ X-FACTOR #19—This guy's nuts says it all: Apocalypse!
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #12
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #31
- ☐ THOR #382—A special double-sized issue, in which everything happens! And we do mean everything!
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #17—Beginning... the Handbook of the Dead.
- ☐ AVENGERS INDEX #2—Featuring all the villains, the guest stars, the excitement and the creators of issues #24-471
- ☐ G.I. JOE DIGEST #5

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ MARVEL AGE #53
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #138
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #3
- ☐ HOUSE II—A Marvel adaptation of the hit horror movie! Scripted by RALPH MACCHIO. Art by ALAN KUPPERBERG and Co.!